

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1-13 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

New claims 14-23 are directed to further aspects of the invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, for example, the original claims and page 6, line 1 to page 7, line 18.

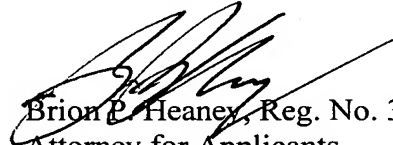
Election

In response to the Election of Species requirement applicants hereby elect the species cilengtide, which has the chemical designation cyclo-(Arg-Gly-Asp-D-Phe-NMe-Val). The claims which read on the elected species are claims 1-23. However, applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the claims lack unity of invention.

The claims recite a Markush group defined by formula I. As set forth in Annex B of the Administrative Instructions Under the PCT (see MPEP page AI-59), Markush claims are deemed to meet the requirements for unity of invention when, for example, the compounds of the Markush group have a common property or activity, and have a common significant structural feature. As described in the specification, the compounds of Formula I are all, for example, integrin inhibitors. See, e.g., page 2, lines 6-12. In addition, Formula I clearly demonstrates that the claimed compounds all share a common significant structural feature. Therefore, withdrawal of the assertion of lack of unity of invention is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



Brion P. Heaney, Reg. No. 32,542
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400
Arlington, VA 22201
Direct Dial: 703-812-5311
Facsimile: 703-243-6410
Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-2955

Date: **August 24, 2006**